

질문과 대답 14회: 남의 아이를 만지는 행동

<광고>



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일상회화 편 2 출간

총 6권 완간(完刊)

Q: Why do Koreans think making physical contact with a baby or child who is not their own is OK?

A:

1.

Traditionally in Korea, touching kids was accepted as a sign of affection. Parents thought it was okay for even total strangers to touch their kids when they want to say, "Oh, you're so cute," or "How old are you?" The habits still remain and many people, especially the elderly, think it's okay to show their affection to children by touching them.

2.

Showing affection to child is a good thing, but touching other kids is a totally different matter. We should respect someone else's personal space even if they're children. We shouldn't do what can make children or their parents uncomfortable. Also, in many cultures it is proper etiquette not to touch other people's kids unless you have permission to do so. Koreans need to be extra careful when they're in a different country not to make physical contact with children.

3.

We hear more stories about pedophiles and crimes against children. So, with good reason, many young parents have become more vigilant about strangers touching their kids. Everyone needs to be careful not to touch other people's kids, but if, for example, an old lady in our neighborhood tries to touch my kid, we can respond to her in a more diplomatic way. Parents can be protective of their children but also need to understand what the other person's intent is.